SS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The 3S 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS		
TARIQ HAMMET			NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.		
(b) County of Residence of	of First Listed Plaintiff		County of Residence of	First Listed Defendant	<u>.</u>
•	ne, Address, Telephone Number and Email Add	ress)		CONDEMNATION CASES, USI VOLVED.	E THE LOCATION OF THE
Craig Thor Kimmel, Es					
Kimmel & Silverman, F 30 E. Butler Pike			Attorneys (If Known)		
Ambler, PA 19002					
(215) 540-8888		THE C	TIZENSHIP OF PR	DINCIPAL PARTIES	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. C	(For Diversity Cases Only)		and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF
(I) U.S. Government Plaintiff	☑ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citiz	en of This State O		ncipal Place 🔘 4 🗇 4
O 2 U.S. Government Defendant	Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	ten of Another State	2 Ø 2 Incorporated and Po of Business In A	
			zen or Subject of a G oreign Country	3 7 3 Foreign Nation	J 6 J 6
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only) TOP 15		ORREDIGIREZGENATERY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
O 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJUR	Y 06	10 Agriculture	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	400 State Reapportionment
☐ 120 Marine	O 310 Airplane	1= 1	20 Other Food & Drug 25 Drug Related Seizure	 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 	410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking
CL 140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability 365 Personal Injury	-	of Property 21 USC 881	PROPERTYRIGHTS	☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportation
150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	320 Assault, Libel & Product Liability Slander 368 Asbestos Person	•	i30 Liquor Laws i40 R.R. & Truck	☐ 820 Copyrights	170 Racketeer Influenced and
☐ 151 Medicare Act	(7) 330 Federal Employers' Injury Product Liability Liability		550 Airline Regs. 560 Occupational	30 Patent 840 Trademark	Corrupt Organizations 3 480 Consumer Credit
152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	O 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPER	RTY	Safety/Health		☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV ☐ 810 Selective Service
(Excl. Veterans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	345 Marine Product G 370 Other Fraud Linbility G 371 Truth in Lendin	g 9700	590 Other LABOR	SOCIAL/SECURITY	☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/
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195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	A 360 Other Personal Product Liabilit	у 📙	730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting & Disclosure Act	☐ 865 RSi (405(g))	(3 89) Agricultural Acts
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIO		740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation	C 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	☐ 892 Economic Stabilization Act ☐ 893 Environmental Matters
☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Forcelosure	☐ 442 Employment Sentence		791 Empl. Ret. Inc.	or Defendant)	894 Energy Allocation Act 895 Freedom of Information
☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land	Accommodations 530 General		Security Act	26 USC 7609	Act
(3 245 Tors Product Liability	444 Welfare		IMMIGRATION 462 Naturalization Application		900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access
☐ 290 All Other Real Property	Employment 550 Civil Rights	ø	463 Habeas Corpus -		to Justice 950 Constitutionality of
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	an "X" in One Box Only) Removed from			ferred from 6 Multidist	
	tate Court Appellate Court	− Re	eopened anoun	(fv)	n Judgment
VI. CAUSE OF ACT	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you 15 U.S. C. SECTION 16992		(1)a not ette Jurisalenon	at statutes united diversity).	
	Fair Debt Collection Practices	Act	,	CHECK ALE AND	y if demanded in complaint:
VII. REQUESTED II COMPLAINT:	N	ON	DEMAND S	JURY DEMANE	
VIII. RELATED CA	SE(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		1	DOCKET NUMBER	
Explanation:			//		
4/22/11 DATE	SIGNATURE	OF A	ORNEY OF RECORD		
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be assignment to appropriate calendar.	used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of
Address of Plaintiff: 532 W. Brookhaven Road	Apt C1, Brookhaven, PA 19015
Address of Defendant: 507 Prudential Road, Has	ham, PA 19044
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction;	
(Use Reverse Side For Add	ditional Space)
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and	** *
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7,1(a))	Yes□ No□
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	YesG No D
RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: Judge	Det To-Joseph
Case Number:Judge	Date Terminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
$1. \ \ k this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year the suit of the s$	
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior sui	Yes No Life Yes N
action in this court?	
	Yes No C
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier nu	
terminated action in this court?	Yes□ No□
${\bf 4.} \ \ Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro secivit rights$	
	Yes No D
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	
A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: 1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. D FELA	Airplane Personal Injury
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. Assault, Defamation
4. D Antitrust	
5. Patent	5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please
t. D Labor-Management Relations	specify)
7. □ Civil Rights	7. □ Products Liability
8. Habeas Corpus	8. Products Liability — Asbestos
9. Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)
11. XAII other Federal Question Cases 15 U.S.C. 1692	(i rease speeny)
(Please specify)	PICATION
ARBITRATION CERTII	
1. ACM TO THINK , counsel of record do hereby certify:	
Pursuarlt to Local Civii Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and be \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	ellet, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of
□ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	
DATE: 4/22/11 Craid That Kimmel	6718
DATE: 4/2/11 (1)(1)(1)(1)(1)(1)(1)(1)(1)(1)(1)(1)(1)(Attorney J.D.#
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there	has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or w	ithin one year previously terminated action in this court
except as noted above.	
DATE: 4/22/11 (Traid ther Kimmy)	57100
Altorney-at-Law	Attorney 1,D,#

CIV. 609 (6/08)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

CIVIL ACTION

Tariq Hamme		CIVIL ACTION			
NCO Financial S	Systems, Inc.	NO.			
In accordance with the Civi plaintiff shall complete a Ca filing the complaint and serve side of this form.) In the e designation, that defendant s the plaintiff and all other par	I Justice Expense and Delay Rose Management Track Designate a copy on all defendants. (See event that a defendant does not shall, with its first appearance, s	eduction Plan of this court, counsion Form in all civil cases at the tis \$1:03 of the plan set forth on the reagree with the plaintiff regarding them to the clerk of court and set a Designation Form specifying the d.	ime of everse g said rve on		
SELECT ONE OF THE FO	OLLOWING CASE MANAG	EMENT TRACKS:			
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases	brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241	through § 2255.	()		
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. (
(c) Arbitration – Cases requ	ired to be designated for arbitra	ition under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()		
(d) Asbestos – Cases involv exposure to asbestos.	ing claims for personal injury o	r property damage from	()		
commonly referred to as the court. (See reverse s management cases.)	Cases that do not fall into tracks complex and that need special side of this form for a detailed e Cases that do not fall into any	or intense management by xplanation of special	() (\}		
(1) Standard Management -	Cases that do not fair into any	one of the other tracks.	×		
4/2/11 Date 215-540-8888	Ctaid Tha Kimml Attorney-at-law 871-788-2864	Taria Hammet Attorney for Kimmel@creditlaw	<u></u> - <u>-</u> (((<u>(</u> (1)		
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address			

(Civ. 660) 10/02

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 2 3 TARIQ HAMMET, 4 **Plaintiff** 5 6 Case No.: ٧. 7 NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.,) COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR 8 **JURY TRIAL** Defendant 9 (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices) 10 11 **COMPLAINT** 12 TARIO HAMMET ("Plaintiff"), by his attorneys, KIMMEL 13 SILVERMAN, P.C., alleges the following against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, 14 INC., ("Defendant"): 15 16 INTRODUCTION 17 Count I of Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection 1. 18 Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. (FDCPA). 19 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 20 21 Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), 2. 22 which states that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate 23 United States district court without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 24 25

- U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States.
- 3. Defendant conducts business and has an office in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and therefore, personal jurisdiction is established.
 - 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).
- 5. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Brookhaven, Pennsylvania, 19015.
- 7. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 8. Defendant is a national debt collection company with its corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road, Horsham, Pennsylvania, 19044-2308.
- 9. Defendant is a debt collector as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), and sought to collect a consumer debt from Plaintiff.
- 10. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 11. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") is a comprehensive statute, which prohibits a catalog of activities in connection with the collection of debts by third parties. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. The FDCPA imposes civil liability on any person or entity that violates its provisions, and establishes general standards of debt collector conduct, defines abuse, and provides for specific consumer rights. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k. The operative provisions of the FDCPA declare certain rights to be provided to or claimed by debtors, forbid deceitful and misleading practices, prohibit harassing and abusive tactics, and proscribe unfair or unconscionable conduct, both generally and in a specific list of disapproved practices.
- 12. In particular, the FDCPA broadly enumerates several practices considered contrary to its stated purpose, and forbids debt collectors from taking such action. The substantive heart of the FDCPA lies in three broad prohibitions. First, a "debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d. Second, a "debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. And third, a "debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt." 15 U.S.C. §

collectors, whether or not there exists a valid debt, broadly prohibits unfair or

unconscionable collection methods, conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses

The FDCPA is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous

1692f.

any debtor, and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.

13. In enacting the FDCPA, the United States Congress found that "[t]here is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection

practices by many debt collectors," which "contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." 15 U.S.C. § 1692a. Congress additionally found existing

laws and procedures for redressing debt collection injuries to be inadequate to protect consumers. 15 U.S.C. § 1692b.

14. Congress enacted the FDCPA to regulate the collection of consumer debts by debt collectors. The express purposes of the FDCPA are to "eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. At all pertinent times hereto, Defendant was hired to collect a consumer debt allegedly owed for a student loan and attempted to collect that debt from Plaintiff.
- 16. The alleged debt at issue arose out of transactions, which were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 17. Defendant constantly and continuously placed collection calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number seeking and demanding payment for an alleged debt owed.
- 18. Most recently, Defendant contacted Plaintiff on or about September 16, 2010.
- 19. Defendant contacted Plaintiff, on average, at least two (2) times a day, causing him to receive more than twenty (20) collection calls a month.
- 20. On occasion, Defendant would call Plaintiff more than four (4) times in a single day.
- Defendant contacted Plaintiff from telephone number: 877-354-2823,
 which the undersigned has confirmed belongs to Defendant.
- 22. At times, it was inconvenient for Plaintiff to receive debt collection phone calls on his cellular telephone as he was at work when he received the calls from Defendant.

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- In those instances when Plaintiff spoke with Defendant, Defendant 23. threatened Plaintiff with wage garnishment if immediate payment was not made.
- Further, Defendant threatened to obtain a lien against Plaintiff's 24. property if immediate payment was not made.
- To date, despite its threats, Defendant has not garnished his wages or 25. placed a lien on his property.
- Defendant conducted its debt collection activities in ways that were 26. factually misrepresented and in violation of the FDCPA.

CONSTRUCTION OF APPLICABLE LAW

- The FDCPA is a strict liability statute. Taylor v. Perrin, Landry, 27. deLaunay & Durand, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." Russell v. Equifax A.R.S., 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp., 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); Clomon v. Jackson, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).
- The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed 28. liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services, Inc., 460 F. 3d

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1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 et seq., is a remedial statute, it should be construed liberally in favor of the consumer." Johnson v. Riddle, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).

29. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3rd Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public - that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." Id. The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. Clomon, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 30. Defendant violated the FDCPA based on the following:
 - a. Defendant violated §1692 generally;

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- b. Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA by engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt;
- c. Defendant violated §1692d(5) of the FDCPA by causing a telephone to ring and engaging Plaintiff in telephone conversations repeatedly and continuously with the intent to annoy, abuse or harass;
- d. Defendant violated §1692e of the FDCPA by using false and deceptive representations in connection with the collection of a debt;
- e. Defendant violated §1692e(4) of the FDCPA by representing that non payment of the alleged debt will result in the seizure or garnishment of Plaintiff's property and wages even though such action is not intended to be taken;
- f. Defendant violated §1692e(5) of the FDCPA by threatening to take action that cannot be legally taken;
- g. Defendant violated §1692e(10) of the FDCPA by using false and deceptive means to collect a debt; and
- h. Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair and unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect a debt.

31. As a direct and proximate result of one or more or all of the statutory violations above, Plaintiff has suffered emotional distress.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, TARIQ HAMMET, respectfully requests judgment be entered against Defendant, NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., for the following:

- a. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the Fair
 Debt Collection Practices Act,
- b. Statutory damages pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices
 Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692k,
- c. Actual damages,
- d. Costs and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to the Fair Debt
 Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692k
- e. Any other relief that this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, TARIQ HAMMET, demands a jury

trial in this case.

DATED: 4/22/1/

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

KIMMEL & ŞILVERMAN, P.C.

By:

Craig Thor Kimmel Attorney ID # 57100

Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.

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Email: kimmel@creditlaw.com